(1) whether they have received a petition dated 8th Mithunam 1104 from the public of Chittur praying for the reconsideration of the suitability of the site selected for the Girls' School;

(2) whether they have enquired into the reasons given therein ; and

(3) what the conclusion they have come to ?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—(1) Yes.

(2) and (3). The matter is being enquired into by the Director of Public Instruction.

Acquisition for the Tiruvilluamala Girls' School.

146. Mr. T. K. Nayar.—Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(1) whether the Director of Public Instruction ever visited the plot that is proposed to be acquired for the Girls' School, Tiruvilluamala ;

(2) what action was taken on the complaint made by the owner of the above plot?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—(1) Yes.

(2) The acquisition of the plot originally proposed was dropped and another site selected.

Opening of a canal for irrigation purposes.

147. Mr. K.T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(a) what orders have been passed on the petition, dated Chingam 5, 1104, from Mr. Nambalat Sankunni Panikkar and the people of Kunnamkulam, Mangad and Porkkulam, submitted to the Chief Engineer regarding the opening of a canal for irrigation ;

(b) whether the above work will be undertaken in the ensuing year ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) and (b). A copy of the order is placed on the Table (*Vide Appendix II.*)

Devadasi system.

148. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to inform :—

(1) whether the 'Devadasi' system is in existence in any part of the State ;

(2) and if so, whether the Government have received in the last four years any representation praying for its abolition ?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—In what parts of the State is the system in existence?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—In the Cochin-Kanayannur Taluk and the Cranganur Taluk.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—How many requests were there?

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Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I cannot exactly say now. Some representation was received.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Whether the Government have passed any orders on the representations?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Some orders also have been passed.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What are the orders?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—They are not with me just now.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Is it to abolish the system?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—No.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Then may I know the contents?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—For that you must give previous notice.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What is the nature of the orders?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—That is contents, I suppose.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Is the idea of the Government to continue the system or to stop it?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Government have no idea of continuing the system. It continues by itself.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What steps has the Government taken to stop it?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I do not quite follow you. Because the matter did not appear to us to be so very attractive. If you want further information, I shall gather it and supply.

Quality of the materials used by the P. W. D. for works.

149. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(a) what are the arrangements now in vogue to ensure that the materials used by the P. W. D., such as timber, iron, steel, concrete, tiles, bricks, etc., are of the best quality ;

(b) what is the general rule about the supply;

(c) are these supplied by the contractors for the works concerned or are they done departmentally ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) Materials used for construction work in the P. W. D. can be broadly classed under two heads.

(1) Materials available in the State in the raw form, such as timber, laterite stones, granite, etc. These are inspected by the Executive Officers and passed by them before they are used in the works.

In regard to (2) manufactured articles, such as tiles, steel, cement, etc., the Department stipulates the Brand and the manufacturers from whom these articles are to be purchased.

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